

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE

c/o State Bar of California - 180 Howard Street - San Francisco, CA 94105 - (415) 538-2251- (415) 538-2524/fax

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*Director, Legal Services Outreach
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SUBJECT: Aranda Access to Justice Award Nomination Form Attached

Nomination Deadline: May 1, 2009

Dear Colleague:

The California Access to Justice Commission is seeking nominations of a California judge for the Benjamin Aranda III Access to Justice Award.

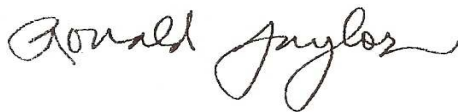
The Aranda Access to Justice Award honors one California trial judge, appellate court justice, or commissioner who deserves recognition for his or her efforts to improve access to our judicial system for low and moderate income persons. The award will be made by the Judicial Council, the State Bar of California and the California Judges Association and will be presented by the Chief Justice at this year's California judicial leadership conference in September 2009, in San Diego.

This annual award honors the judge who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to equal access to our courts, and who has personally done significant work in improving access to our courts for low and moderate income Californians. The award is named in honor of the late Judge Aranda who was known for his tireless efforts to promote fairness and access in the courts.

The California Commission on Access to Justice will select the award recipient in consultation with the Judicial Council, the State Bar and CJA. The Commission, whose membership includes appointees from each of those three entities, as well as from the business, labor, education and religious communities, is dedicated to pursuing long term strategies designed to make significant progress toward the goal of improving access to justice. The Commission is addressing a number of important issues such as the increase in self-represented litigants, involvement of the judiciary in encouraging pro bono and the study of successful models for systemic improvement in our judicial system in order to provide increased access to justice for all Californians, regardless of financial resources or language ability.

Thank you for your interest, and for considering a deserving judge for this prestigious award.

Very truly yours,



Hon. Ronald Taylor, Ret., Chair
Aranda Access to Justice Award Committee
on behalf of the California Commission on Access to Justice

Nomination Deadline: May 1, 2009

BENJAMIN ARANDA III ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD
PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF
THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL, THE CALIFORNIA JUDGES ASSOCIATION,
AND THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

NOMINATION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Nominations are being sought for the Benjamin Aranda III Access to Justice Award by the California Commission on Access to Justice. Presented for the first time in 1999, this annual award honors a judge or commissioner who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to improving access to our courts, and who has personally done significant work in improving access for low and moderate income Californians. The following are past recipients of the award:

1999 – Hon. Judith McConnell, San Diego Superior Court
2000 – Hon. Veronica S. McBeth, Los Angeles Superior Court
2001 – Hon. Charles Campbell, Ventura Superior Court
2002 – Hon. Donna J. Hitchens, San Francisco Superior Court
2003 – Hon. Kenneth M. Kawaichi, Alameda Superior Court
2004 – Hon. Earl Johnson, Jr., Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District
2005 – Hon. Aviva Bobb, Los Angeles Superior Court
2006 – Hon. Donna M. Petre, Yolo Superior Court
2007 – Hon. Kathleen E. O’Leary, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District
2008 – Hon. Francisco Firmat, Orange County Superior Court

The California Commission on Access to Justice will select the award recipient in consultation with the Judicial Council, the State Bar and CJA.

Criteria for Award:

Criteria to be used in the selection of the award recipient include one or more of the following:

- ◆ Demonstrated dedication to improving access to our judicial system for low and moderate income Californians;
- ◆ Demonstrated commitment to increasing the involvement of volunteer attorneys in the representation of the indigent;
- ◆ Successful establishment of a model system for providing assistance to self-represented litigants;
- ◆ Successful establishment of a model cooperative effort with local legal services programs or bar associations designed to improve available representation for low or moderate income litigants; or
- ◆ Other significant activities demonstrating a long-term commitment to improving the accessibility of our judicial system for all Californians, regardless of income.

Nomination Process:

- ◆ **Nomination forms are due May 1, 2009. One copy of the completed Nomination Form (attached) and supporting materials (loose pages, no staples) should be included.**
- ◆ The award recipient will be selected by the California Commission on Access to Justice, in consultation with the Judicial Council, the State Bar and CJA. The award will be presented at the 2008 California judicial leadership conference.

For more information, contact Chris Zupanovich, Program Coordinator, Legal Services Outreach, State Bar of California: (415) 538-2534; chris.zupanovich@calbar.ca.gov

**BENJAMIN ARANDA III ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD
NOMINATION FORM
Nominations due: May 1, 2009**

Nominee's Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ FAX: () _____

Name of Nominee's Clerk: _____

Phone No. of Nominee's Clerk: _____

Please include the following supporting materials with this nomination form:

- ☐ Description of how the nominee meets the award criteria
- ☐ The nominee's resume
- ☐ Letters of support (up to five letters will be accepted)
- ☐ Three additional references

Nominator's Name: _____

Court/Firm/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ FAX: () _____

Nominator's Signature: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mailed nominations are preferred. Please submit one (1) copy of the nomination form and accompanying materials (loose pages, no staples) by May 1, 2009 to:

***Chris Zupanovich, Staff, Commission on Access to Justice
State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639***

**For more information, please contact Chris Zupanovich
(415) 538-2534; chris.zupanovich@calbar.ca.gov**